GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3487
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005
DISTRIBUTION OF FREE MEDICINES IN GENERAL WARD
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the patients admitted in general ward of AIIMS are entitled for free medicines as per the manual of hospitals;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether General Ward patients are asked to purchase each and every medicine including syringes and cotton gauge from the market;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) whether a large number of poor patients waiting for life saving surgery at AIIMS and Government hospitals are not in a position to get their treatment done in such hospitals ;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) the expenditure incurred by AIIMS in procuring medicines for free distribution in General ward during 2004-05, item-wise; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to improve the said situation ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (h): The patients, including poor patients coming to AIIMS Casualty/Emergency are provided free medical check up and diagnostic tests. The surgical consumables and life saving drugs are also being provided free of cost. The patients admitted to the general wards are issued specified surgical items and life saving drugs, as per prescribed norms, free of cost. However, items like surgical prosthesis and other items are normally required to be procured by the patients themselves. The poor and indigenous patients who cannot afford to buy medicines and surgical items are provided financial assistance through Poor Patients Fund, National Illness Assistance Fund (Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi) Prime Minister`s Relief Fund, Health Minister`s Discretitionary Grant and Philanthropic organizations.

It is a fact that there is a long waiting list of patients in the surgical/ward in the AIIMS, New Delhi. This is due to the increasingly large number of patients coming to AIIMS from different parts of the country.

The Main Hospital of AIIMS has incurred an expenditure of Rs.13.36 crores for the purchase of medicines for use of the emergency and indoor patient care, which does not include the routine patient care requirements like surgical goods, medical gases, crystalloids, general store items and other day to day expenditure.